

tle while changed to sadness. The entire family were seized with the fever, and David, Nancy, and Sally were borne to their graves very soon, one after the other. Long as Solomon Conrad lived the memories of that sad home coming seemed to over shadow his spirit, and imparted a tone of subdued sadness to his demeanor. In mature life he made a profession of his trust in Christ and lived devoutly, honestly, and consistently.

There is much reason for believing that Browns Mountain and Browns Creek derive their names from Solomon Conrad's father-in-law, John Brown, late of Montgomery County, elsewhere referred to.

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### MICHAEL DAUGHERTY.

Among the early permanent settlers of Knapps Creek, and a person of some prominence in county affairs was Michael Daugherty. He was a native of Ireland and came from Donegal, and settled here about 1770. The property he owned is now in possession of Peter L. Cleek, William L. Harper, and the Ruckman sisters Margaret and Nancy. Mrs Daugherty was Margaret McClintic, whose parents lived near Staunton, Virginia. They were the parents of seven children, four daughters and three sons.

Their daughter Martha became Mrs John Frame and lived in Nicholas County.

Isabella Daugherty was married to William Nicholas and lived on Douthards Creek. The late Thomas Nicholas, on the Indian Draft, was one of her sons.

Elizabeth Daugherty became Mrs Adam Sharatt and located on the Greenbrier three miles above Marlinton, where he built a mill, traces of which yet remain. The dam remained long after the mill went out of use and went to ruins. It was finally destroyed as a nuisance. A more substantial structure of the kind perhaps was never constructed anywhere in this region. Thence the Sharatts went to Jacksons River, near the headwaters.

Margaret Daugherty married William Ruckman and first lived in Highland, afterwards came to Knapps Creek to the old homestead. In reference to her family we have the following particulars:

Isabella Ruckman died at the age of fourteen years. Mary Ann Ruckman, a very sprightly, interesting person, was an invalid from her early youth, and died but a few years since. Two other daughters, Margaret and Nancy Ruckman, live on the homestead. Michael Daugherty Ruckman married Jane Minter, of Cumberland County, Virginia, and settled near Mingo, in Randolph County. Thomas Ruckman married Mary Minter, and settled in Cumberland County. Mrs Mattie Riggleman is his only surviving child. Samuel Ruckman married Elizabeth Hall, near the Big Spring of Elk, and settled in Randolph County. Mrs Lula Swecker and her sister Ardely Ruckman are her children. Jesse Ruckman died at the age of thirteen years.

In reference to the sons of Michael Daugherty, the pioneer, whose names were John, Samuel, and William, we have this information: John Daugherty went to Kansas soon after its admission into the Union, mar-

ried Margaret Clark, and settled in that State. Samuel Daugherty died in early youth at the old home on Mill Run. William Daugherty married a Miss Collins and after living a few years on Knapps Creek, went to Wythe County, Virginia. Wellington G. Ruckman, who now lives near Sunset, is a great-grandson of Michael Daugherty.

It is believed that Michael Daugherty built the first tub mill, propelled by water power, anywhere in this whole region. The site was on Mill Run, near Sunset and some traces of it yet remain. This mill seems to have been patronized by all sections of upper Pocahontas, and had the reputation of being one of the best of its kind.

It may be news to many of our esteemed readers that there was a "real old Irish gentleman" among those who endured the toils, privations, and perils that were peculiar to the early occupancy of this region, yet such appears to be the fact, as attested by authentic tradition. He grew to manhood having the privileges and advantages enjoyed by the sons of the Irish landed gentry. As far as possible he wished to have aristocratic usages in his home on the frontier. He was one of the few settlers that attended sales in Stanton or Culpepper Courthouse, where the services of passengers were put up at auction in order to secure the charges for transportation from foreign ports. If a passenger could pay all charges himself and show a receipt for the same, it became his patent of nobility in the new world; but if he could not, it seems he could not make good his claim to be one of "the qual-

ity," some of us people used to hear so much talked about. In those old times when Michael Daugherty was living, if a person could pay his own way across the ocean, and hire or purchase the services of such as were less fortunate, then he was one of "the quality." As he was able to do both, then Michael Daugherty was one of the first of the new fledged nobility that occupied the Knapps Creek region.

With the notions peculiar to the Irish gentry, their young people felt it was essential to their comfort to have servants come and go at their bidding. Such a domestic arrangement was a pleasant shade in summer and a good warm fire in winter. The tradition is that Michael Daugherty was one of the first to enjoy the shade alluded to and the winter fires.

It is believed by his descendants that his father had designed his son Michael for the Catholic priesthood, and with a view to this had given him special educational advantages. Before receiving holy orders, the father died. It appears that in arranging the affairs pertaining to the settlement of the estate, in some way a serious disagreement arose between Michael and his step mother, and he thereupon received a portion of the goods allotted him and he came to America, and seems to have been lost sight of the Donegal Daughertys. It is believed with good reason that could Michael Daugherty's descent have been shown to the satisfaction of the Irish Court of Claims, that his West Virginia heirs would have come in for a handsome share of the ancestral legacies.